Bachelor of Information Technology - Information Resource Management: a joint initiative between Carleton University and Algonquin College

Emma Cross, *Cataloguing Librarian, Carleton University.*
emma.cross@carleton.ca

Helena Merriam, *Co-ordinator, Library and Information Technician Program, Algonquin College.*
merriah@algonquincollege.com

Carleton University and Algonquin College are collaborating on the development of a new joint degree program, the Bachelor of Information Technology - Information Resource Management (BIT-IRM). This unique 4 year program will enable students to graduate with both a Bachelor of Information Technology degree and a Library and Information Technician diploma.

Program overview

The BIT-IRM will provide a carefully designed multidisciplinary program including courses in web interface development, programming, metadata, business, information management, database theory and development, legal issues in information technology, communication skills, French, Library software, marketing, special collections and network technology.

- The flexible structure of the program also enables students to incorporate a minor of their choice to develop a subject area specialty.
- Bridge program has been designed for students who already have an LIT diploma to reduce the time to obtain the BIT degree.

Advantages of the program

- Strong theoretical education combined with practical experience.
- Opportunities for practicum and experiential learning including completion of projects at Carleton's MacOdrum Library supervised by librarians and library paraprofessional staff.
- Flexible co-op option which enables students to gain up to 5 terms of work placement related to the field of information technology.
- Graduates with substantive technology skills to manage digital resources and services including websites, research data and social media.
- Focus on information management.

Future opportunities

The degree / diploma combination opens the door to a broad range of career opportunities such as libraries, information management, research institutions, user interface design and construction, web design, e-commerce and more.

Graduates from the program will have:

- a marketable skill set and be well equipped to work in the information resource sector in the 21st century.
- excellent opportunities for entering into MLIS programs as well as pursuing Master's and PhD programs at Carleton University including Information Technology and Human-Computer Interaction.

How the program works

Students registered in the program will be enrolled at both Carleton University and Algonquin College and will benefit from the facilities, teaching staff, resources and expertise at both institutions.

Laboratory facilities

Up to date facilities, equipment and software at each institution will be designed and maintained specifically for the program. Computer labs will enrich the student experience by providing access to the latest technology available.

Tuned into information technology in the workplace

Both institutions regularly consult with representatives from employers in order to track current, emerging and future trends in information technology.

Consultation keeps the program in sync with the skills and competencies desired by employers.

BIT-IRM courses

Year 1

- Introduction to information society
- Metadata and cataloguing I
- Collections management
- Web interface development
- Reference I
- Subject analysis and indexing
- Introduction to programming
- Reader's advisory services

Year 2

- Metadata and cataloguing II
- Classification
- Introduction to business
- Intermediate programming
- Reference II
- Information management
- Introduction to statistics
- Database theory and development
- French I

Year 3

- Metadata and cataloguing III
- Communication skills for IRM
- Legal issues in information technology
- Research methodology
- Reference III
- French II
- Directed reading for IRM
- Project management

Year 4

- Library software
- Marketing in the IT sector
- Network technology
- Archives and special collections
- Practicum for IRM
- Senior research project

The proposed BIT-IRM program is subject to Carleton University's academic program approval process. Once approved by Carleton University and Algonquin College, the program will require authorization from the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance.

More information

School of Information Technology, Carleton University
http://bitdegree.ca/

Library and Information Technician Program,
Algonquin College
http://www3.algonquincollege.com/healthandcommunity/program/library-and-information-technician/

BACHELOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
www.bitdegree.ca

Carleton UNIVERSITY

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

Carleton University and Algonquin College are collaborating on the development of a new joint degree program, the Bachelor of Information Technology - Information Resource Management (BIT-IRM). This unique 4 year program will enable students to graduate with both a Bachelor of Information Technology degree and a Library and Information Technician diploma.

Program overview

The BIT-IRM will provide a carefully designed multidisciplinary program including courses in web interface development, programming, metadata, business, information management, database theory and development, legal issues in information technology, communication skills, French, Library software, marketing, special collections and network technology.

- The flexible structure of the program also enables students to incorporate a minor of their choice to develop a subject area specialty.

- Bridge program has been designed for students who already have an LIT diploma to reduce the time to obtain the BIT degree.

Advantages of the program

- Strong theoretical education combined with practical experience.
- Opportunities for practicum and experiential learning including completion of projects at Carleton's MacOdrum Library super vised by librarians and library paraprofessional staff.
- Flexible co-op option which enables students to gain up to 5 terms of work placement related to the field of information technology. A minimum of 3 work terms of work placement are required to obtain a BIT-IRM degree with a co-op designation.
- Graduates with substantive technology skills to manage digital resources and services including websites, research data and social media.
- Focus on information management.

Future opportunities

The degree / diploma combination opens the door to a broad range of career opportunities such as libraries, information management, research institutions, user interface design and construction, web design, e-commerce and more.

Graduates from the program will have:

- a marketable skill set and be well equipped to work in the information resource sector in the 21st century.
- excellent opportunities for laddering into MLIS programs as well as pursuing Master's and PhD programs at Carleton University including Information Technology and Human-Computer Interaction.

How the program works

Students registered in the program will be enrolled at both Carleton University and Algonquin College and will benefit from the facilities, teaching staff, resources and expertise at both institutions.

Laboratory facilities

Up to date facilities, equipment and software at each institution will be designed and maintained specifically for the program. Computer labs will enrich the student experience by providing access to the latest technology available.

Tuned into information technology in the workplace

Both institutions regularly consult with representatives from employers in order to track current, emerging and future trends in information technology.

Consultation keeps the program in sync with the skills and competencies desired by employers.

BIT-IRM courses

Courses offered at Algonquin College: 7 credits
Courses offered at Carleton University: 13 credits

Year 1

- Introduction to information society
- Metadata and cataloguing I
- Collections management
- Web interface development
- Reference I
- Subject analysis and indexing
- Introduction to programming
- Reader's advisory services

Year 2

- Metadata and cataloguing II
- Classification
- Introduction to business
- Intermediate programming
- Reference II
- Information management
- Introduction to statistics
- Database theory and development
- French I

Year 3

- Metadata and cataloguing III
- Communication skills for IRM
- Legal issues in information technology
- Research methodology
- Reference III
- French II
- Directed reading for IRM
- Project management

Year 4

- Library software
- Marketing in the IT sector
- Network technology
- Archives and Special Collections
- Practicum for IRM
- Senior research project